



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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TTY Relay 711

Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Meeting Summary November 18, 2010 2-4 p.m. Northgate Library 10548 Fifth Ave. NE - Seattle

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bill Wood at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople, Gary Kingsbury, Cynthia Lefever, Kathy Lewis, Robert Stephens, Jr., Roger Welles, Chair- Bill Wood

Board Members Excused/Absent: Ron Forest, Stan Gunno, Vice-Chair - Francisco Ivarra

King County Staff Present: Joel Estey, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Debora Gay, DCHS; Laird Heia, DCHS; Jon Hoskins, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Linda Peterson, DCHS.

Guests: Steve Fredrickson, Northwest Justice Project (NJP); Lauren Peach, NJP; Sheila Sebron, Veteran-Community Network.

Northwest Justice Project (NJP) Update – Steve Fredrickson/Lauren Peach

Steve Fredrickson and Lauren Peach of the NJP provided the board with an update on the project. The Veterans Levy provided \$12,000 towards this plan. Other funders include AmeriCorps/Equal Justice Works, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington State Bar Association, Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) Section, and Northwest Justice.

Services are currently being provided and the outreach efforts are underway to ensure the at-risk or homeless veterans and their family members are aware of the project. The project goal is to help this population remove barriers to housing, employment and self-sufficiency.

If you have a client you'd like to refer, have the client call Lauren directly. If a service provider is unsure whether the client is an appropriate referral, the provider can call or email Lauren to discuss the client's options.

NJP's next steps are to continue to provide existing services, focus on outreach to veteran clients who are not accessing services through the phone referral system, and outreach to historically underserved veteran populations (women, minorities, and OEF/OIF veterans). In addition, NJP is developing and will distribute a "know your rights" pamphlet to veterans and is developing and providing training on "toolkits" for legal advocates and volunteers assisting veterans with legal issues.

Levy Renewal Planning – Debora Gay and Linda Peterson

Debora Gay informed the board that the renewal process is underway. Anna Markee, Special Projects Manager, has been hired to manage the renewal process. Anna met with RHSLOB and VCLOB board chairs to provide the framework of the levy renewal process. The levy renewal timeline and the need for the board's involvement were discussed.

The board members were asked several questions relating to the levy. The questions and initial responses of individual board members are noted below:

- 1) What has changed in our environment over the last six years since the levy was first voted on?
 - a. Local and state budgets have decreased and therefore veteran and human services needs have increased
 - b. The Veterans Administration's 5 year plan to end homelessness was proposed
 - c. The county-wide strategic plan has been developed
 - d. There is now an increased awareness of immigrant and refugee population issues
 - e. Because of the state of the economy, a suggestion was made to focus the levy more on providing basic human needs (food, light, warmth, and housing)
 - f. There are no longer any general fund dollars from King County supporting Human Services. Given this new environment, we need to be sure both boards (Vets and Human Services) work together to promote the same levy direction and present a united front
- 2) What key messages do we need to communicate about the levy?
 - a. The levy honors our veterans
 - b. The levy serves our vulnerable populations
 - c. The levy provides services that are cost-effective and provides long term solutions
 - d. We need to tell the stories of our veterans so more people understand what they are experiencing
 - e. The next levy needs to provide additional specific services for women's veterans

Review of Meeting Summary

The September 16, 2010 VCLOB Meeting Summary was approved as written.

Chair's Report

None.

King County Staff Report

- The King County Veterans Information and Assistance Call Center contact and information cards were distributed to board members. The levy funded program is well underway.
- Three new board members will soon be approved for the Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB).
- The combined Notice of Funding Award (NOFA) Request for Proposal (RFP) for capital and operating/support services has been released. Thank you to the board members who are taking on the review responsibilities.
- The Military Training Conference presentations were well received.
- Kathy Lewis strongly encouraged levy board members and the levy be recognized at events where levy dollars have been distributed.

New Business

- The Northshore Senior Center hosted its first Veterans Day Lunch. King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson and City officials presented.

- The Auburn Veterans Day Parade/lunch and awards ceremony was a great success. Many board members were in attendance
- The ground-breaking ceremony for a Family Camp for veterans and their families in Alabama was held. Cynthia was the keynote speaker for the event.

Old Business

None.

Petitions/Communication (public comment)

- Sheila Sebron, Veteran Community Network, spoke about the challenge small African American organizations have filling out forms to receive grant money. Sheila provides this service to such organizations and provided materials for anyone interested.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.